Female Infanticide

701. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the female infanticide is still taking place in different States;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to contain the magnitude of female infanticide in the country; and

(c) whether any in-depth study has been undertaken about the female infanticide in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Newspaper reports mention about cases of female infanticide in different States.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Women and Child Development has written to concerned State Governments seeking reports and to all State Governments to address the issue of female infanticide urgently. This Ministry has proposed various schemes to be incorporated in the Eleventh Five Year Plan to enhance the status of Girl Child so that such a heinous practice does not take place in future.

Strict measures for Child Welfare Schemes

702. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have adopted strict measures and issued communication to the Chief Ministers of States to pull up their socks or face hindrance in clearance of funds for child welfare schemes;

(b) whether Government have asked for the strict implementation of the legal provisions and schemes for ensuring juvenile justice;

(c) if so, whether Government are also proposing to launch a Centrally sponsored scheme for integrated child protection during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period; and

(d) if so, how many States have so far followed the directions issued by the Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. A letter has been addressed to Chief Ministers of all States conveying that State Governments should, *inter alia*, ensure the following:

(i) all child protection issues should be dealt with by Department of Women and Child Development only to ensure clarity and avoid confusion while taking up policy matters and implementation issues with State Governments.

(ii) all institutions, whether State Government run or those run by voluntary organizations for children in need of care and protection shall, within a period of six months from the date of commencement of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act 2006 i.e. 23rd August 2006, be registered under this Act.

(iii) information regarding all institutions working in States whether run by State Governments or by voluntary organisation along with their registration status and number of children being looked after in them, should be put on the website of the concerned Department for better transparency.

(iv) in no case, should a juvenile in conflict with law be placed in a police lock up or lodged in jail.

(v) there should be vigil over the entry and exit of children staying in child institutions while preventing access to these homes by unauthorized persons.

It has also been stated in the letter that non-compliance of these issues may lead to hindrance in clearance of funds for States.

(b) The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are regularly reminded regarding proper implementation of the provisions of the Juvenile Justice [Care and Protection of Children] Act, 2000 and related schemes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Governments of Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, West Bengal and UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands have replied conveying examination of issues raised in the letter. At the same time, Chief Minister, Maharashtra has also conveyed that they have already created a separate Department for women and child development.